

SPRING TURKEY

2003

HUNTING REGULATIONS
STATE OF MONTANA



General Regulations

These regulations apply to all legally described spring male turkey hunting districts and areas.

Spring Season — April 12 - May 11, 2003

Licenses — The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices and most license providers throughout the state.

	Res.	Nonres.
Spring Season Turkey License	\$5.00	\$115.00
Conservation License (required prerequisite*)	\$4.00	\$7.00
Upland Game Bird License (required prerequisite for residents' only)	\$6.00	\$110.00

*The resident Sportsman's License, the nonresident Big Game Combination License or the nonresident Deer Combination License serves as the prerequisite license.

Montana residents 12-14 years of age, 62 years of age and older or holder's of a Disabled Resident Conservation License, need only the conservation license and a valid turkey license to hunt turkey. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt turkey.

Limit - One wild, male turkey per spring season, see exception below. Turkey license must be stamped "SPRING."

Exception: Spring turkey hunters may purchase two turkey licenses and harvest two male turkeys in the spring season in Administrative Region 7, or one male in any other sanctioned hunting area and another in Region 7. Administrative Region 7 includes: Garfield, Rosebud, Treasure, Prairie, Custer, Powder River, Richland, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon and Carter counties. The total combined limit of spring and fall season cannot exceed two turkeys.

Avoid Violations of the Law - It is illegal to shoot any game bird on, from, or across any public highway, or the shoulder, berm, or borrow-pit, or right-of-way of any public highway, and/or motor driven conveyance.

Checking Stations - All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Evidence of Sex - No person shall transport within the state any turkey taken during the spring turkey gobbler season unless one leg and foot are left naturally attached for evidence of sex. The leg and foot shall remain attached at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the permanent residence of the possessor.

Recorded Animal or Bird Sounds - It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls, sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals. (MCA 87-3-103).

Hunter Education - both resident and nonresident youths 12 -17 years of age must provide a Certificate of Competency in the safe handling of firearms before they may purchase a hunting license.

Hunting Hours - One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Complete sunrise/sunset tables as adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission are available at all FWP offices and most license providers.

Indian Reservations - Hunters hunting on Indian reservations should check Indian reservation regulations because season dates, shooting hours and bag limits may differ from state regulations.

Landowners Permission - Hunters are reminded that landowner permission is required to hunt on private land.

Means of taking - Wild turkey may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge; long, recurve or compound bow and arrow;.

The following methods or devices are prohibited in taking game birds and animals:

1. The use of any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of wildlife.
2. A bow sight may be attached to any bow to aid in the taking of wildlife; however, bow sights, bows or arrows which use artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics are prohibited.

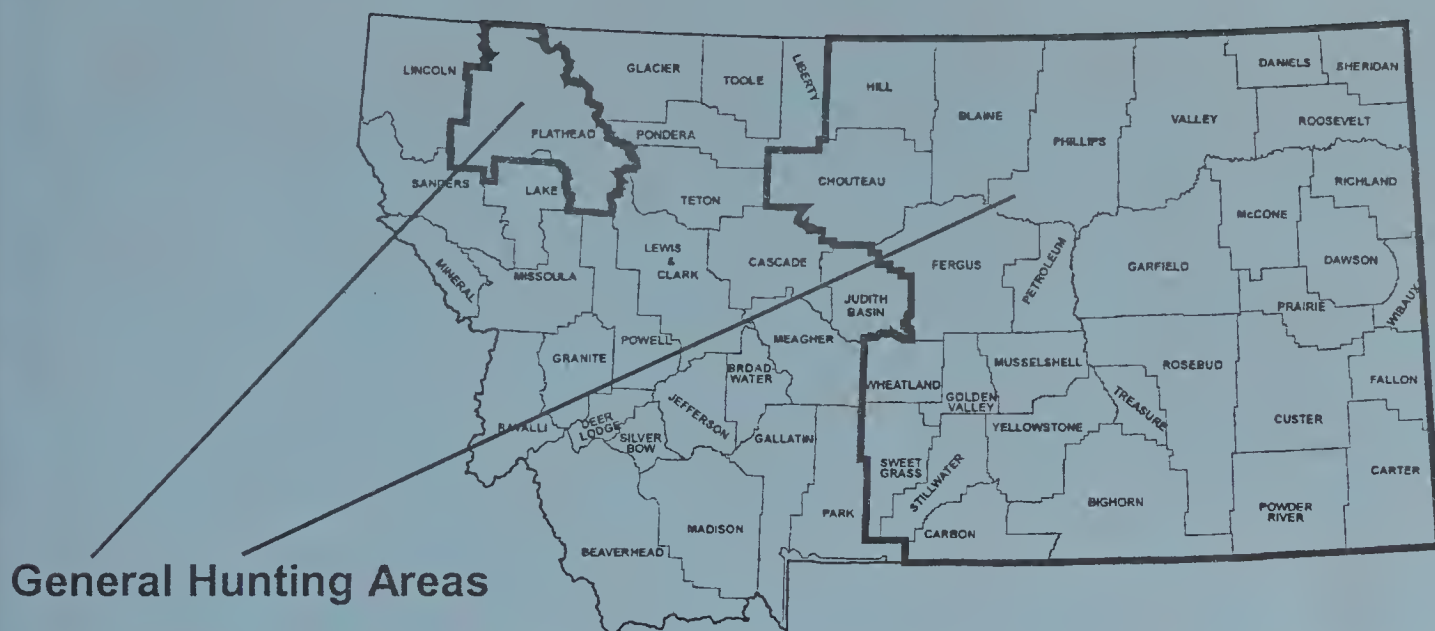
Restriction -It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any gamebird by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare or bait (MCA87-3-101). Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain so as to constitute a lure or attraction. Nothing shall prohibit the taking of birds in or over standing crops or harvested cropland or grains scattered as a result of agricultural harvesting.

Tagging - Immediately after harvesting the wild turkey, cut out the proper month and day from the license and affix to the turkey so it remains secure and visible at all times.

Wanton Waste - It is illegal to waste any part of any game animal, game bird, or game fish suitable for food. Following are turkey parts suitable for food: breasts, thighs and wings.

Defensive Turkey Hunting Tactics - A safe turkey hunter, like a safe driver, is defensive minded. Below are some tips you should consider:

- Select the largest stump, blow-down, tree-trunk, or rock to place your back against when calling; a hunter is more likely to spot another hunter moving to the front or side than from behind.
- Eliminate the colors white, red, black and blue from your hunting outfit; this includes handkerchiefs, socks, underwear, etc.
- Select your calling spot in open timber rather than thick brush; eliminating movement is a key to success, not concealment.
- In areas of high hunter concentrations, wear blaze orange when walking to and from your vehicle; this is also a good idea when carrying a bird out of the woods.
- Be discreet when imitating the sound of a gobbling turkey.
- When songbirds, crows or your turkey shuts up--look out; there's a good chance another hunter is moving in on your bird.
- Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence; remain still, cough or holler. A quick movement may be your last. Use common sense.



The following counties are open to all hunters who hold a valid current year Spring Turkey License. Special permits are not required in these areas: Flathead Valley (see legal description). In addition, Hill, Chouteau, Fergus, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.

Flathead Valley

Turkey are found primarily on private land and access is limited and difficult.

General hunting area open to all hunters who hold a valid spring turkey license. All of Flathead County and that portion of Lake County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning on the shoreline of Flathead Lake at the junction of the Flathead County Line, then easterly along the county line to the Swan Divide, then southerly along said divide to USFS Trail 10 in Section 36, T26N, R18W, then southwesterly along said trail to USFS Road 9508 (Six Mile Road), then southerly along said road to Route 83, then southerly along said route to USFS Road 10229 (Porcupine Creek Road), then westerly and southerly along said road to the south boundary of T26N, the 6th Standard Parallel North, then west along said township line to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then north and west along said boundary to the east shore of Flathead Lake, then north along the shore of said lake to the Flathead County line, the point of beginning.

Special Permit Hunting Areas

Hunters must possess a special spring turkey gobbler permit, in conjunction with their spring turkey license, to hunt in special permit hunting areas. Applicants may apply for a special spring male turkey permit in only one area of the state. The special spring male turkey permit allows the hunter to hunt in the described area during the time period specified on the permit. Permit quotas listed in these regulations are final for 2003

Applications must be postmarked by March 15 of the current year, to be eligible for the drawing. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and will be required to purchase a valid spring turkey license before hunting.

Sanders, Lake and Lincoln Counties:

A total of 240 special spring male turkey permits will be issued. Applicants must apply for only one of the following permit areas:

West Clark Fork - 115 permits

Lincoln County - 125 permits

Applicants must indicate either West Clark Fork or Lincoln County area and submit in writing their name, address, current year's ALS number (printed in the upper right hand corner of your license), and a \$3. nonrefundable drawing fee to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Turkey Drawing, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Turn In Poachers — 1-800-TIP-MONT — 1-800-847-6668

West Clark Fork:

A total of 115 special spring male turkey permits will be issued.

That portion of Sanders County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the Sanders-Mineral county line meets the Idaho border, then easterly along said line to Greenwood Hill, then northerly along the divide to Penrose Peak, Cherry Peak and Eddy Mountain, then northwesterly down the ridge to the Clark Fork River and mouth of Thompson River, then northeasterly up said river to the West Fork of the Thompson River, then up said fork to Four Lakes Creek, then westerly up said creek to the North Fork of Four Lakes Creek, then northwesterly up the North Fork to USFS Road 7671 and USFS Trail 437, then westerly up said trail to USFS Trail 450, then northerly on said trail to Mt. Headley, then northerly along the divide between Graves Creek and West Fork of Fishtrap Creek to the Vermilion River Divide, then northerly along the Vermilion-Thompson River Divide to the Sanders-Lincoln county line, then westerly along said line to the Idaho border, then south and southeasterly along said border to the Sanders-Mineral county line, the point of beginning.

Mineral, Missoula (in portions of Ravalli & Missoula Counties small areas remain closed to turkey hunting due to recent transplants), Powell, Ravalli and Portion of Granite Counties:

(see Granite County portion below)

A total of 120 special spring male turkey permits will be issued. Applicant may apply for only one of the following permit areas:

Mineral County - 10 permits

Missoula County - 10 permits

Powell and portion of Granite Counties - 5 permits

Ravalli County - 80 permits

20 youth permits (12-14 only)

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, current year's ALS number (printed in the upper right hand corner of your license), indicate which county you are applying for, and \$3 nonrefundable drawing fee to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Turkey Drawing, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59801.

Granite County Portion: Only that portion of Granite County north of the following described line shall be open to the hunting of turkeys during the spring gobbler season: Beginning at Cleveland Mountain and the head of Welcome Creek to Rock Creek, then north along Rock Creek to its junction with Brewster Creek, then easterly along said creek to Sliderock Mountain and the head of Eightmile Creek, then easterly along said creek to its junction with the 500 KV Bonneville Power Line, then southeast along said power line to the Granite-Powell County line.

Toole and Pondera Counties: CLOSED**Fish, Wildlife and Parks Administrative Region 3**

A total of 20 special spring male turkey permits will be issued. Administrative Region 3 includes: Beaverhead, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Broadwater, Madison, Gallatin, and Park counties. Permits are not valid on Canyon Ferry Special Management Area.

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, current year's ALS number (printed in the upper right hand corner of your license), and \$3 nonrefundable drawing fee to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Turkey Drawing, 1400 South 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718.

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the commission in Section 87-1-301, MCA and are valid March 1, 2003 through February 29, 2004. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on February 12, 2003. Jeff Hagener, Director.



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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